

Gene	Chromosome	TSS	FOXF1 Binding Site	
<i>Col1a2</i>	6	4,505,910	-1331	-1182
			-294	57
			368	524
			810	1167
			2017	2499
			4134	4416
			22703	22845
			31422	31862
			32255	32529
			32776	31022
<i>Col5a2</i>	1	45,502,820	-816	33
			304	472
			1904	2052
			7190	7332
			9270	9637
			10489	10681
			12506	12937
			14086	14369
			55083	55225
			82266	82514
122097	122457			
<i>Mmp2</i>	8	92,827,778	-573	439
			6349	7508
			19004	20139
			21290	21848

Table S1. FOXF1 binding sites as identified by ChIP-seq relative to the transcriptional start site.

Gene Name	Assay Number
<i>Actb</i>	Mm00607939_s1
<i>Acta2</i>	Mm00725412_s1
<i>Alb</i>	Mm00802090_m1
<i>Aurkb</i>	Mm01718146_g1
<i>Cdkn1a</i>	Mm01303209_m1
<i>Cdkn1b</i>	Mm00438168_m1
<i>Ccnb1</i>	Mm00838401_m1
<i>Ccnd1</i>	Mm00432359_m1
<i>Clec4f</i>	Mm00443934_m1
<i>Col1a1</i>	Mm00801666_g1
<i>Col1a2</i>	Mm00483888_m1
<i>Col3a1</i>	Mm00802331_m1
<i>Col5a2</i>	Mm00483675_m1
<i>Des</i>	Mm00802455_m1
<i>Foxf1</i>	Mm00487497_m1
<i>Foxm1</i>	Mm00514924_m1
<i>Mmp13</i>	Mm00624354_m1
<i>Mmp16</i>	Mm01210646_m1
<i>Mmp2</i>	Mm00439498_m1
<i>Mmp8</i>	Mm00439509_m1
<i>Mmp9</i>	Mm00442991_m1
<i>Timp1</i>	Mm00441818_m1
<i>Timp2</i>	Mm00441825_m1
<i>Timp3</i>	Mm00441826_m1

Table S2. List of TaqMan probes used in qRT-PCR analysis.

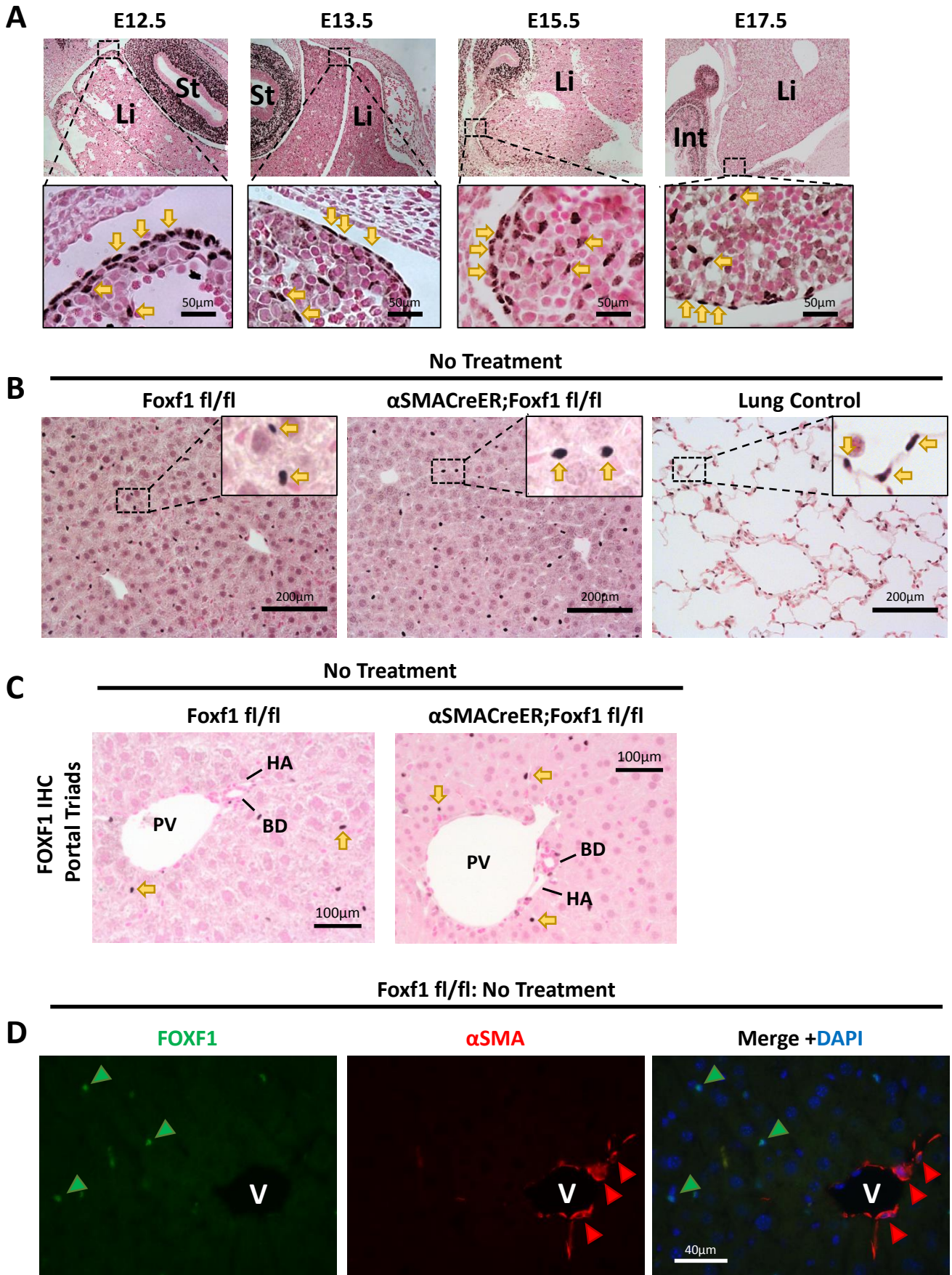
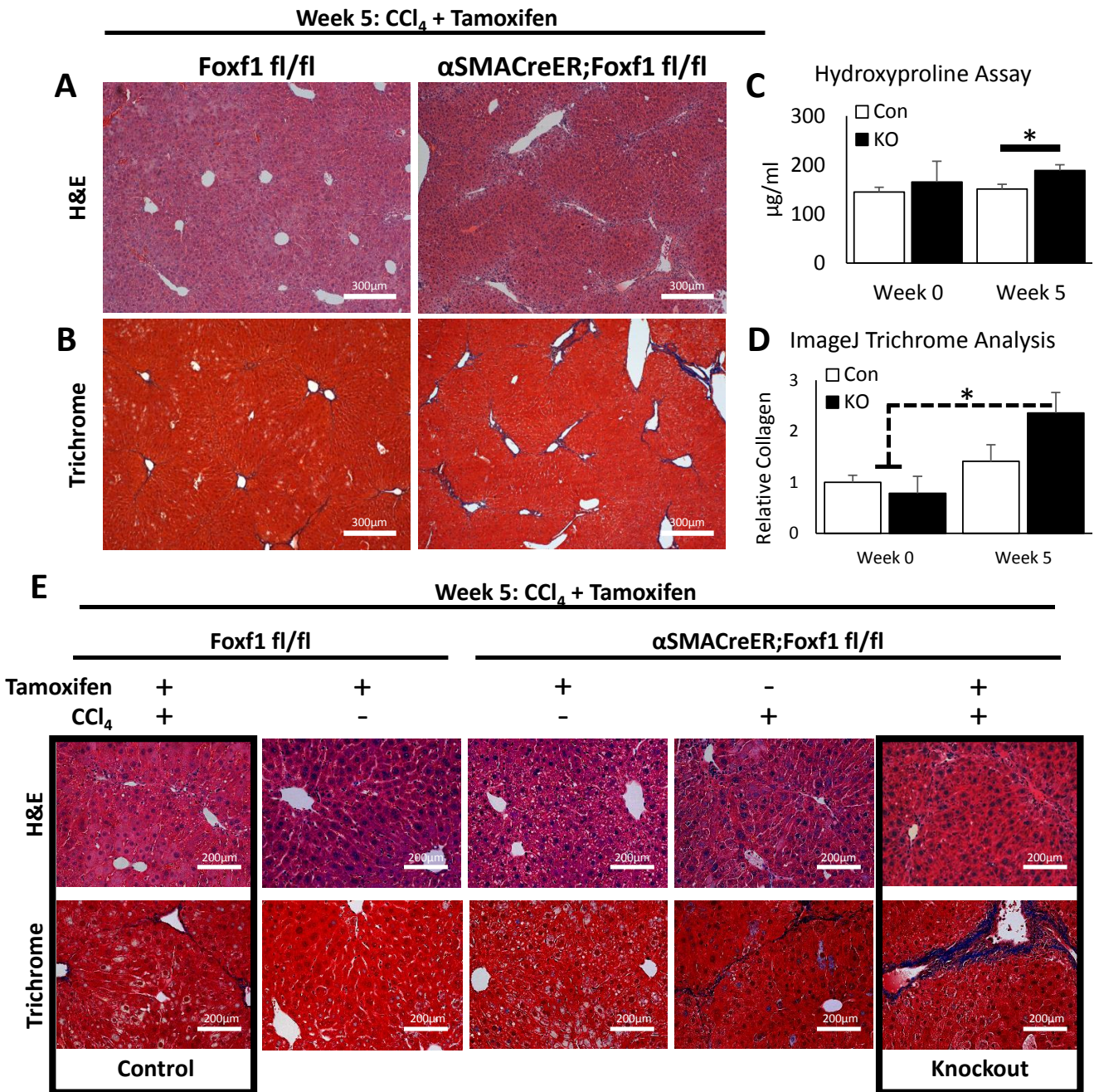


Figure S1. FOXF1 expression in mouse livers. (A) Immunostaining shows FOXF1 protein (dark brown) in nuclei of mesenchymal cells surrounding stomach (st) and intestine (int) of e12.5-17.5 mouse embryos. FOXF1 (yellow arrow) is also detected in mesothelial and stellate cells of the liver (li). Slides were counterstained with nuclear fast red (red). (B) Immunostaining shows FOXF1 (yellow arrow) expression in HSCs of uninjured livers. Lung sections were used as positive control for FOXF1 staining. (C) Immunostaining shows that FOXF1 (yellow arrow) is expressed in liver parenchyme but not in endothelial cells lining the portal vein (PV) and hepatic artery (HA). Bile ducts are shown as BD. (D) Co-localization of FOXF1 (green arrowheads) with α SMA (red arrowheads) shows that FOXF1 is not expressed in smooth muscle cells surrounding the portal vein (V) in uninjured *Foxf1^{fl/fl}* livers.



*Figure S2. Treatment with tamoxifen alone does not induce hepatic fibrosis. (A) H&E and (B) Masson's trichrome staining of Foxf1^{fl/fl} and αSMACreER;Foxf1^{fl/fl} livers after 5-weeks of CCl₄ and Tam treatment show widespread hepatic fibrosis. (C) Collagen deposition was quantitated using the Hydroxyproline assay. n=2 mice per group in week 0; n=4 mice per group in week 5. (D) ImageJ analysis of Masson's trichrome images shows a significant increase in collagen in livers from αSMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} mice. n=3 mice per group in week 0; n=5 mice per group in week 5. (E) H&E and Masson's trichrome staining of Foxf1^{fl/fl} and αSMACreER;Foxf1^{fl/fl} livers from mice treated with Tam alone or in combination with CCl₄. Tam treatment does not induce hepatic fibrosis in either Foxf1^{fl/fl} or αSMACreER;Foxf1^{fl/fl} mice. Tam-mediated deletion of Foxf1 exacerbates the fibrotic phenotype observed in CCl₄-treated αSMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers. P<0.05 is indicated with *.*

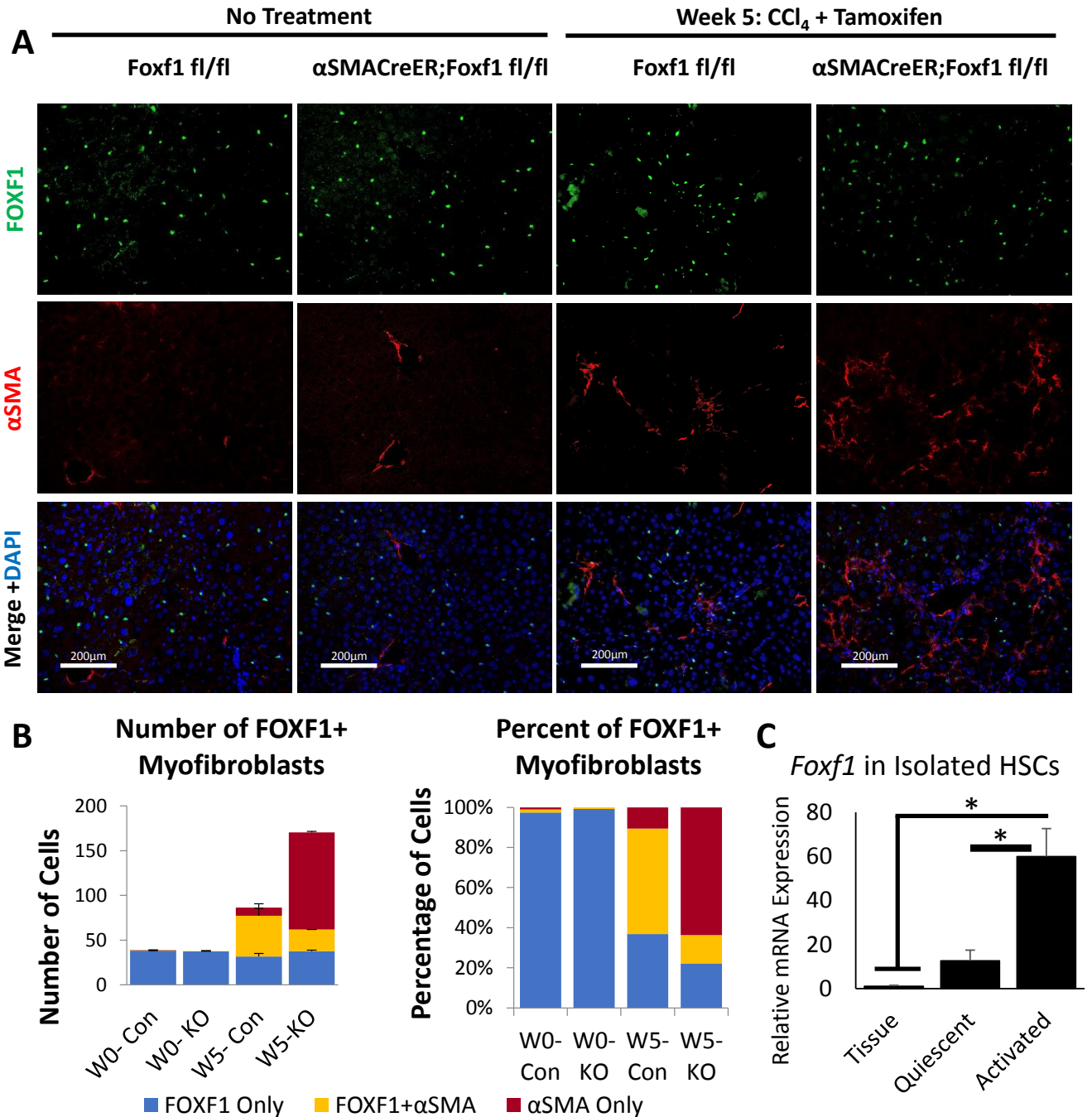
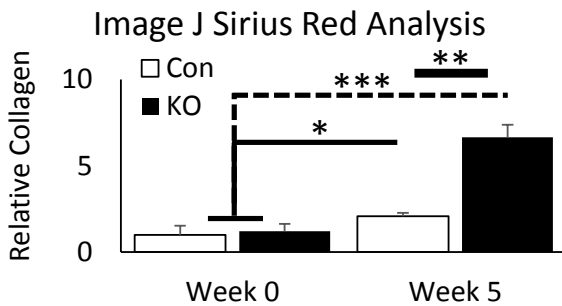
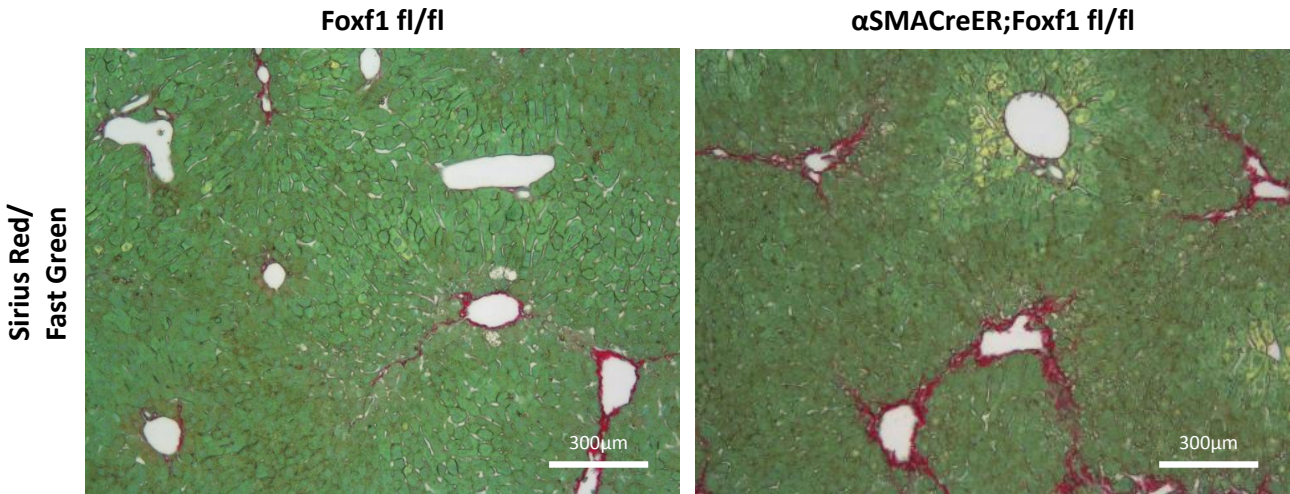


Figure S3. Number and percentage of FOXF1+ myfibroblasts are reduced in α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers. (A) Co-localization of FOXF1 with α SMA in Foxf1^{fl/fl} and α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers. Scale bars 200 μ m. (B) Counts of cells double stained for FOXF1 and α SMA show an increased number and percentage of α SMA+ FOXF1- MFs in CCl₄-treated α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers compared to controls (W0 is Week 0; W5 is Week 5). (C) qRT-PCR shows a significant increase in *Foxf1* mRNA in HSCs isolated from C57Bl/6-WT mice at the activated stage compared to uninjured livers.

Week 5: CCl₄ + Tamoxifen



*Figure S4. Increased collagen deposition in Foxf1-deficient livers. Sirius Red/Fast Green staining shows widespread collagen accumulation in α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers compared to Foxf1^{fl/fl} livers. ImageJ analysis of Sirius Red/Fast Green images shows a significant increase in collagen in livers from α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} mice. n=3 mice for Con and n=4 mice for KO in week 0; n=4 mice for Con and n=5 mice for KO in week 5. P<0.05 is indicated with *, P<0.01 is indicated with **, P<0.001 is indicated with ***.*

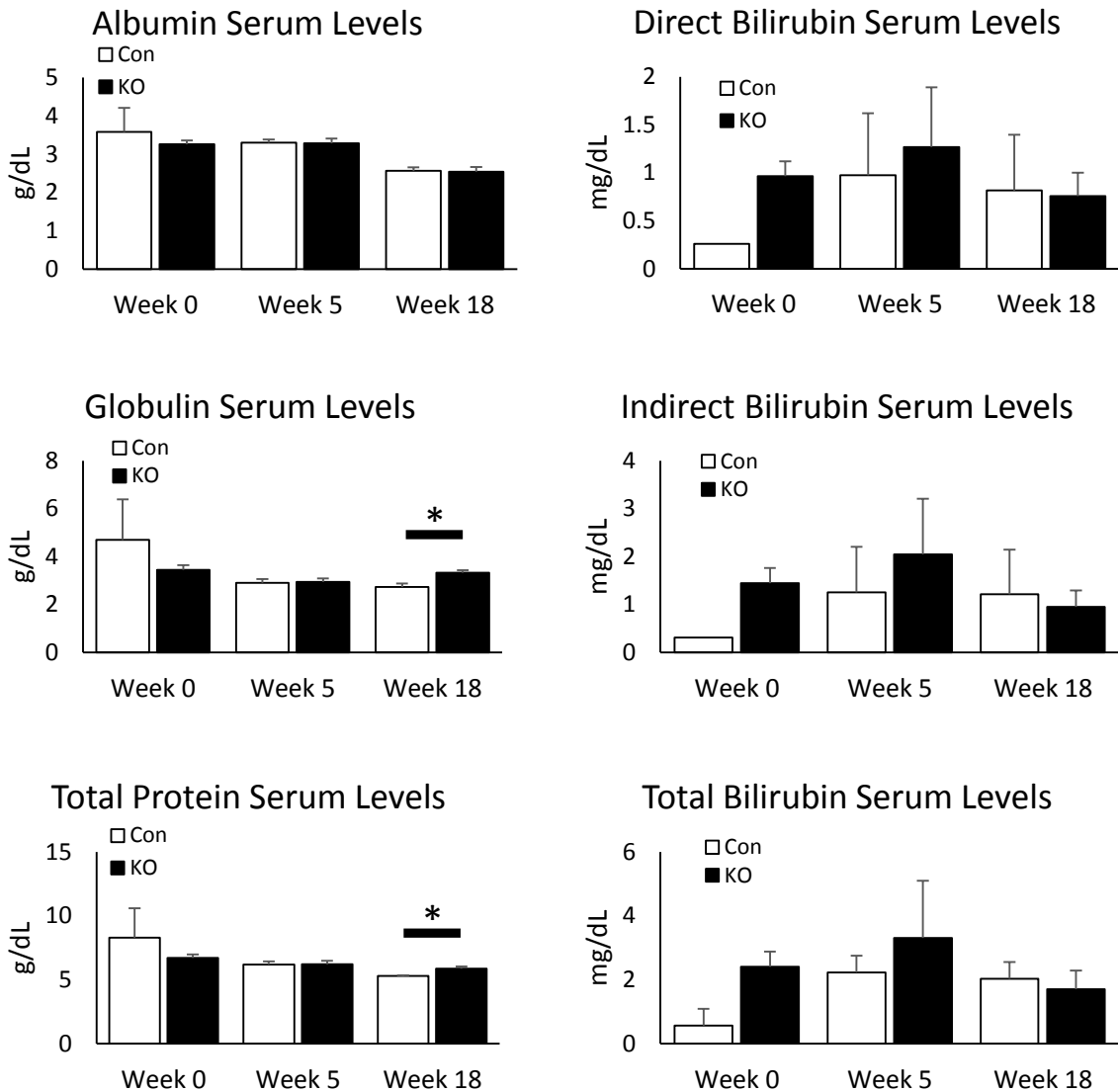


Figure S5. Deletion of Foxf1 had no effect on serum protein or bilirubin levels. The loss of Foxf1 did not change serum albumin levels between control and Foxf1-deficient mice at 0, 5, or 18 weeks of CCl₄-treatment. Globulin levels were significantly increased at week 18 between Foxf1^{fl/fl} and α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers, as were total protein levels. n=5 mice per group in weeks 0 and 5; n=3 control mice and n=5 KO mice in week 18. Deletion of Foxf1 had no effect on bilirubin levels in blood serum. Data are shown as mean \pm SEM.

Foxf1 fl/fl

α SMACreER;Foxf1 fl/fl

H&E

Trichrome

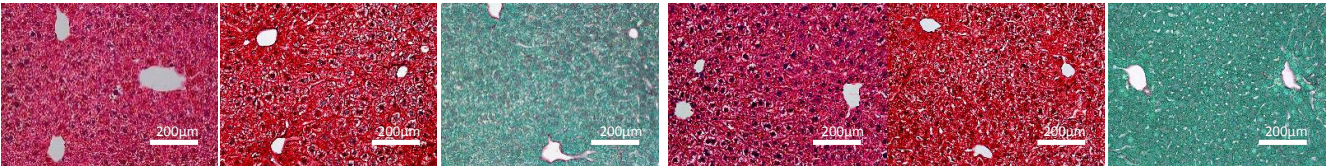
**Sirius Red/
Fast Green**

H&E

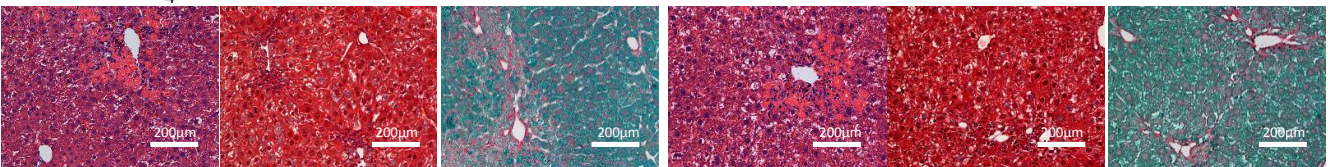
Trichrome

**Sirius Red/
Fast Green**

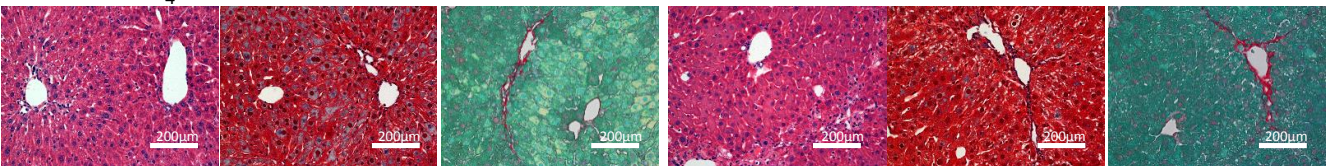
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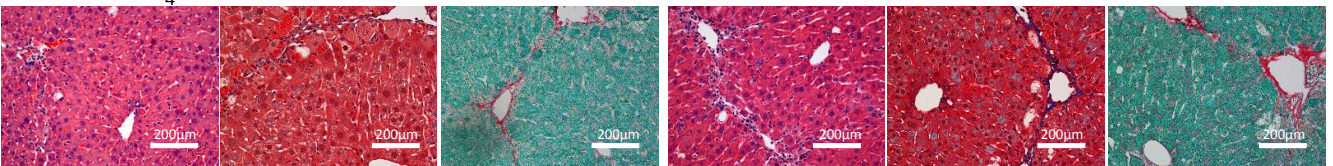
Week 1- CCl₄



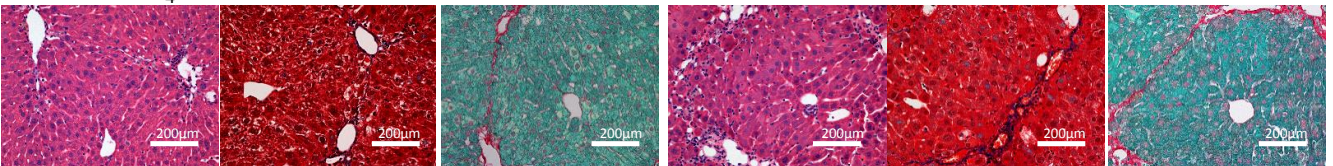
Week 2- CCl₄ + Tamoxifen



Week 3- CCl₄ + Tamoxifen



Week 4- CCl₄ + Tamoxifen



Week 5- CCl₄

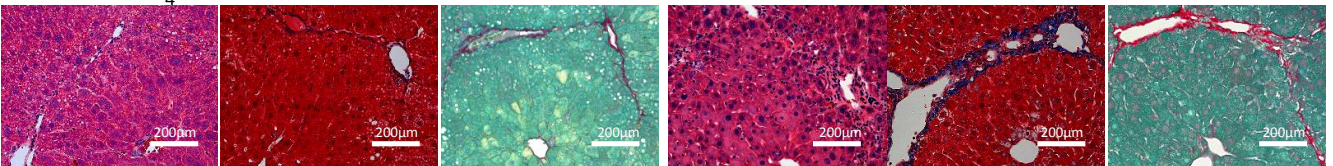
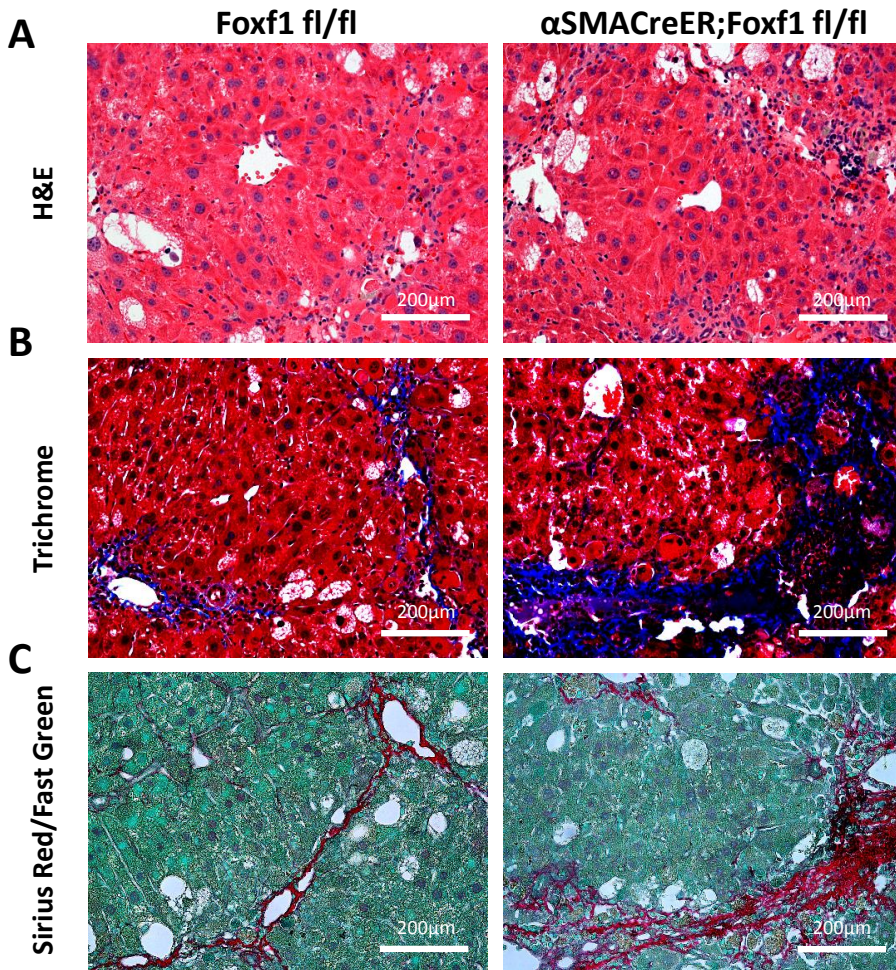


Figure S6. Collagen accumulation in Foxf1-deficient livers is time-dependent. H&E, Masson's trichrome, and Sirius Red/Fast green staining show a timecourse of CCl₄-induced hepatic fibrosis. Collagen depositions were greater in CCl₄-treated α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers.

Week 18: CCl₄ + Tamoxifen



Week 18: CCl₄ + Tamoxifen

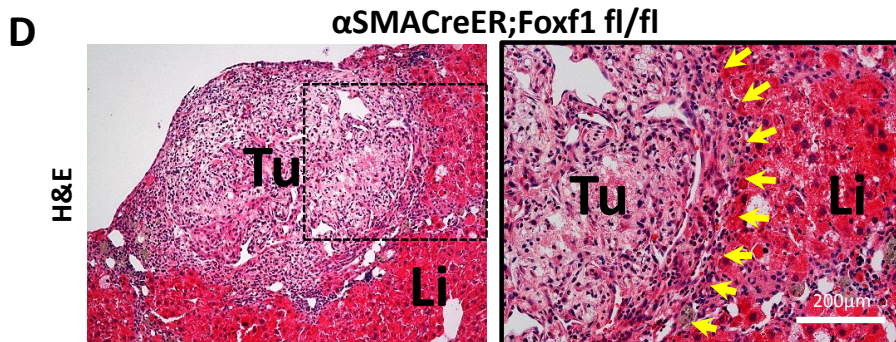


Figure S7. Widespread hepatic fibrosis and appearance of liver tumor in α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} mouse after 18-weeks of CCl₄ treatment. Representative liver sections stained for (A) H&E, (B) Masson's Trichrome, and (C) Sirius Red/Fast Green demonstrate that severe fibrotic lesions occur in α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} livers after 18-weeks of chronic hepatic injury. (D) H&E images show a hepatic tumor (Tu) in an α SMACreER;Foxf1^{-/-} liver (Li) after 18-weeks of CCl₄-treatment. Tumors were found in 14.29% of mice (1 mouse out of n=7). Tumor boundaries are shown with arrows.

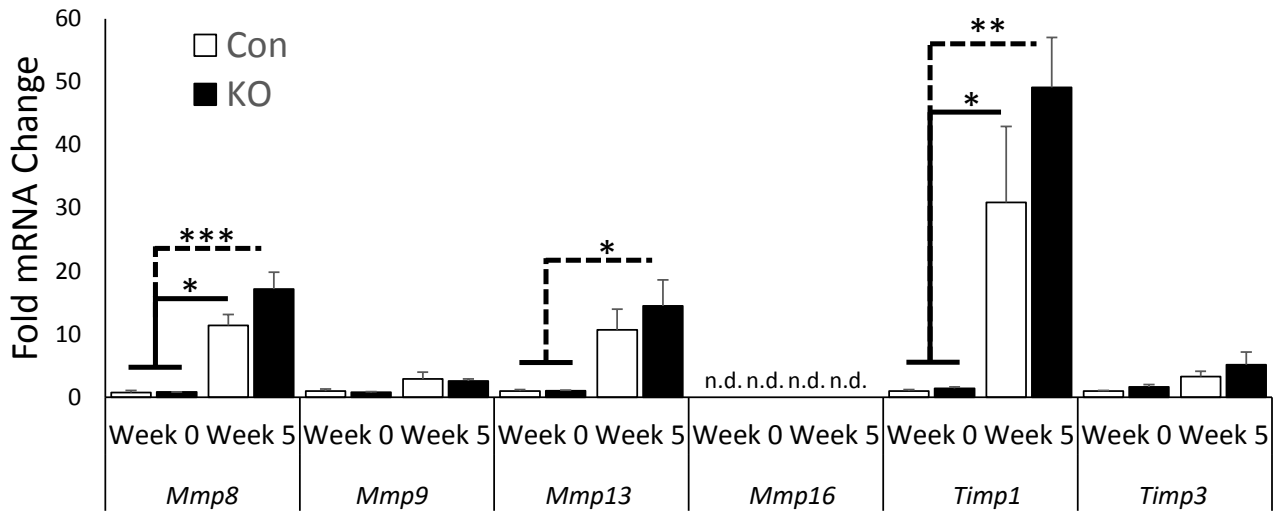


Figure S8. Deletion of *Foxf1* does not affect *Mmp8*, *Mmp9*, *Mmp13*, *Mmp16*, *Timp1*, or *Timp3* mRNAs in CCL_4 -treated livers. qRT-PCR was used to measure mRNAs in whole liver extract. *Mmp16* was not detected (n.d.) in any sample tested. mRNAs were normalized to *Actb*. For *Mmp8*, *Mmp9*, *Mmp13*, *Mmp16*, *Timp1*, and *Timp3*: n=3 mice per group in week 0; n=5 mice per group in week 5. P<0.05 is indicated with *, P<0.01 is indicated with **, P<0.001 is indicated with ***.

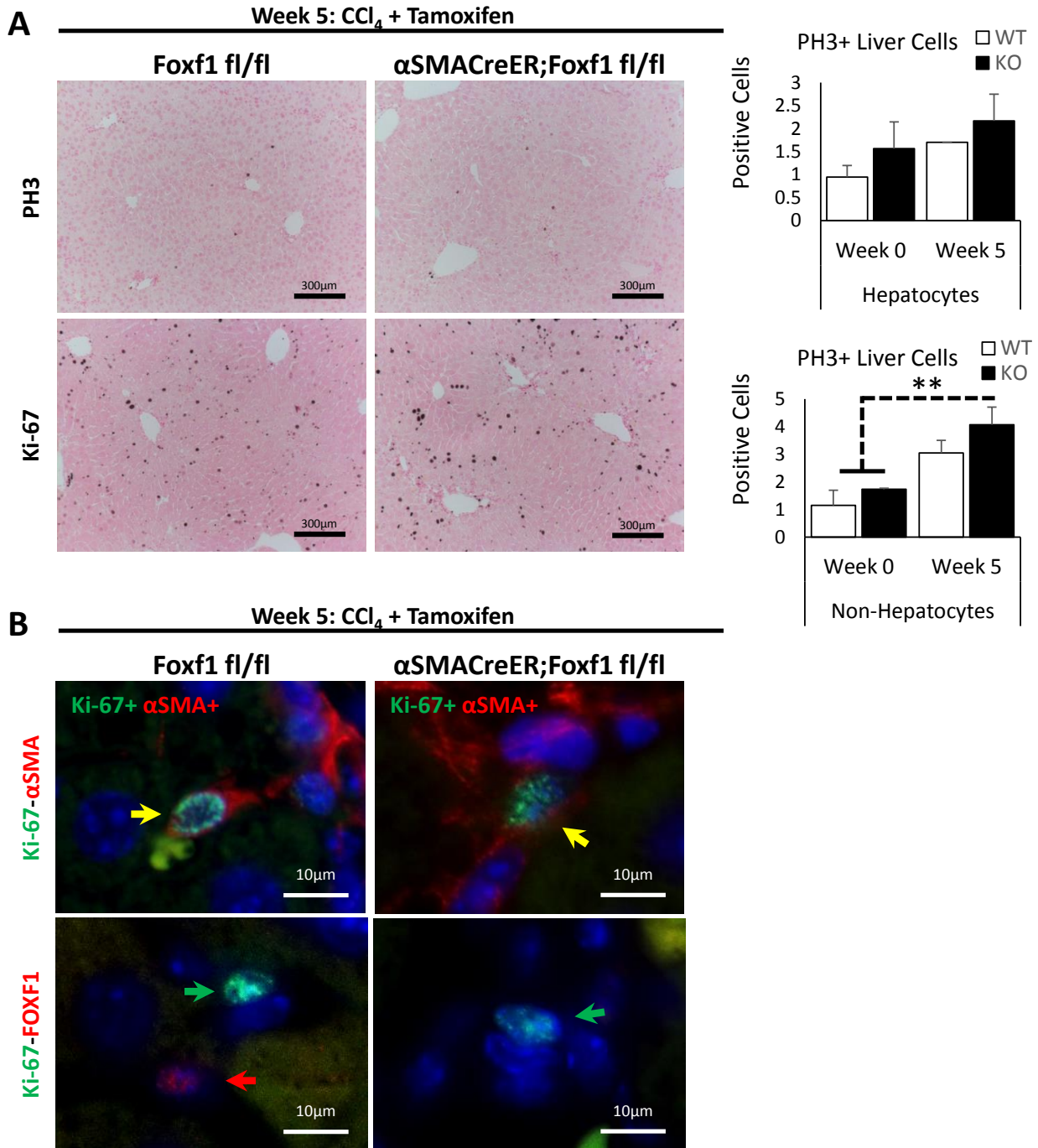


Figure S9. Deletion of *Foxf1* does not affect proliferation of α SMA⁺ cells in CCl₄-treated livers. (A) Immunostaining for PH3 and Ki-67 and PH3 cell counts shows no difference between *Foxf1*^{fl/fl} and *αSMACreER;Foxf1*^{-/-} livers. The number of PH3⁺ hepatocytes and non-hepatocytes in *Foxf1*^{fl/fl} livers was similar to those in *αSMACreER;Foxf1*^{-/-} livers. Numbers of PH3⁺ cells were counted in 10 random 200x microscope fields using n=3 mice per group. (B) Co-localization of Ki-67 with α SMA shows the presence of Ki-67⁺ MFs in livers of CCl₄-treated mice. Co-localization of Ki-67 with FOXF1 shows that proliferating FOXF1⁺ cells were uncommon in CCl₄-treated livers.

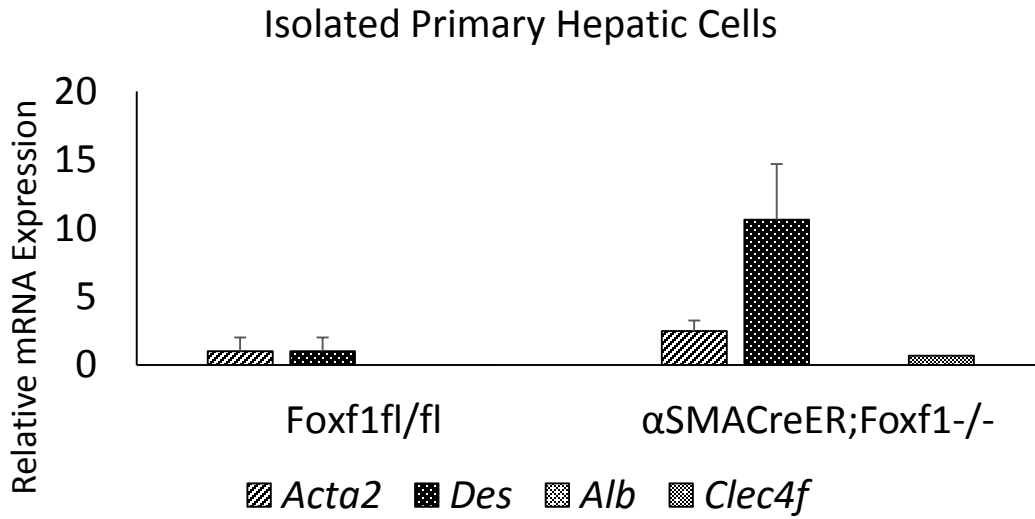


Figure S10. Purified stromal cells express Acta2 and Des. qRT-PCR analysis shows the presence of *Acta2* and *Des* mRNAs. Hepatocyte marker *Alb* and Kupffer cell marker *Clec4f* were not detected in purified stromal cells (one α SMACreER;*Foxf1*^{-/-} sample expressed *Clec4f*). mRNAs were normalized to *Actb*.

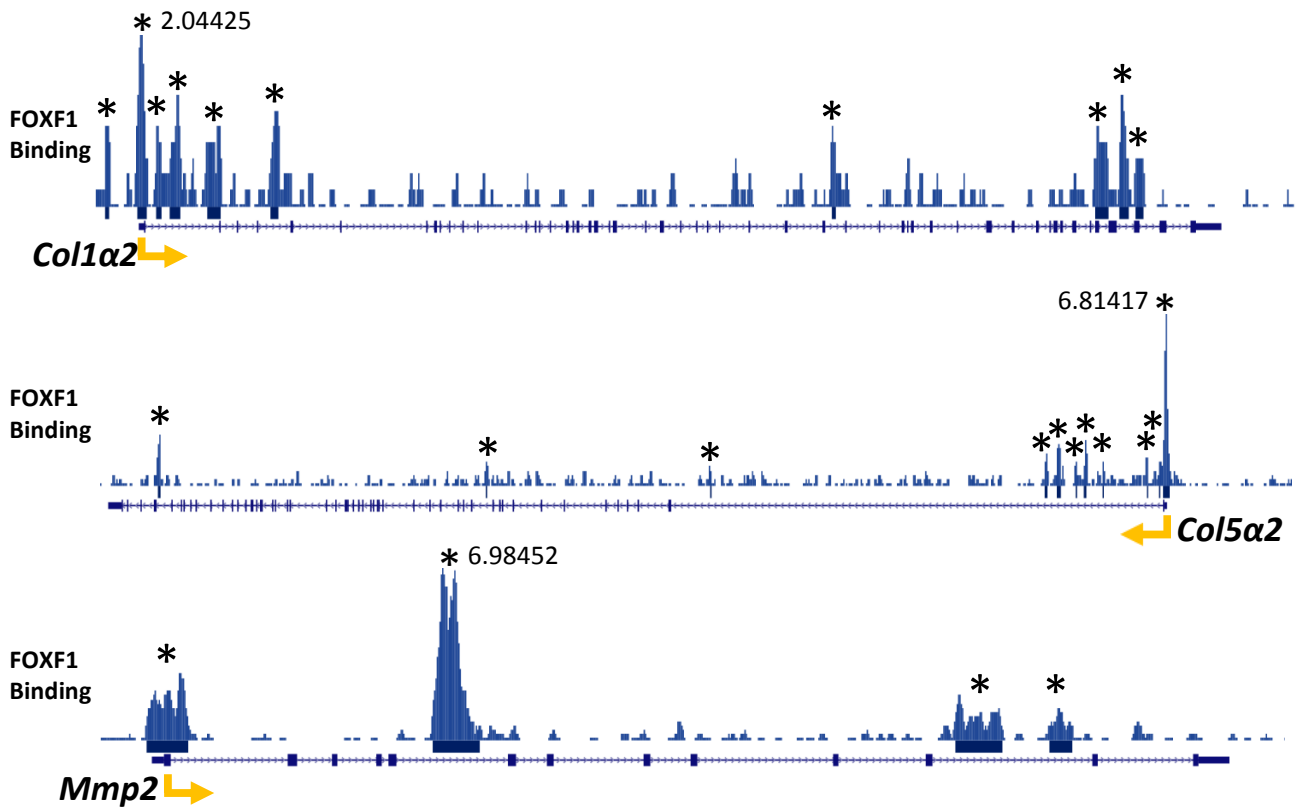


Figure S11. ChIP-seq shows FOXF1 binding sites in DNA regulatory regions of *Col1a2*, *Col5a2*, and *Mmp2*. Schematics of FOXF1 binding across entire genes: *Col1a2*, *Col5a2*, and *Mmp2*. ChIP-seq for FOXF1 shows significant binding in multiple DNA regions (indicated with *) of *Col1a2* (a peak binding height of 2.04425), *Col5a2* (a peak binding height of 6.81417), and *Mmp2* (a peak binding height of 6.98452).

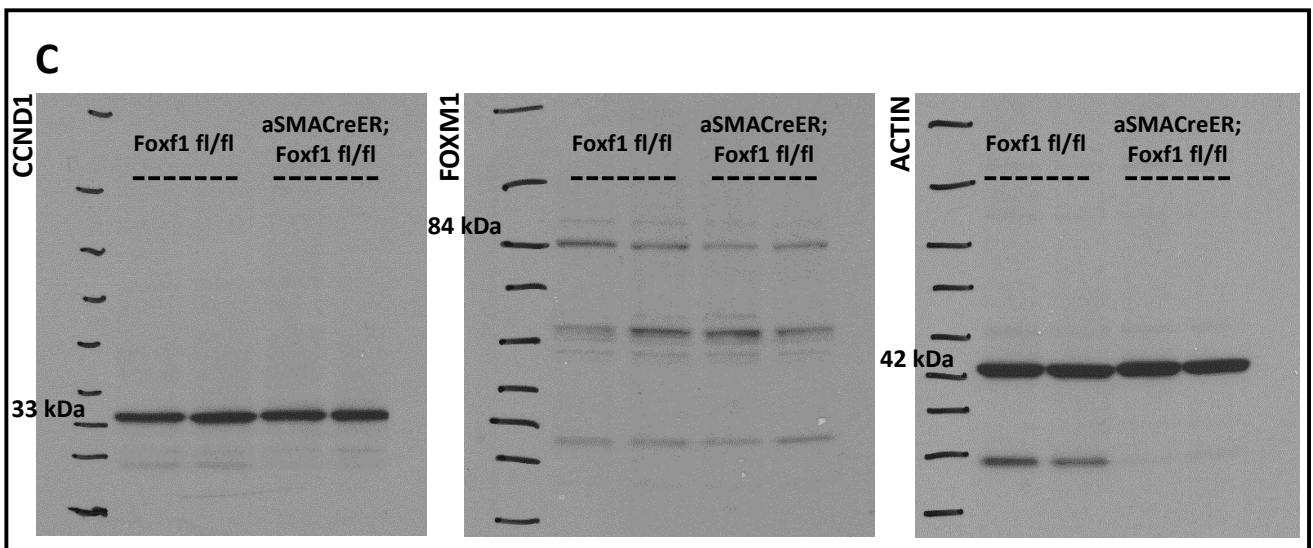
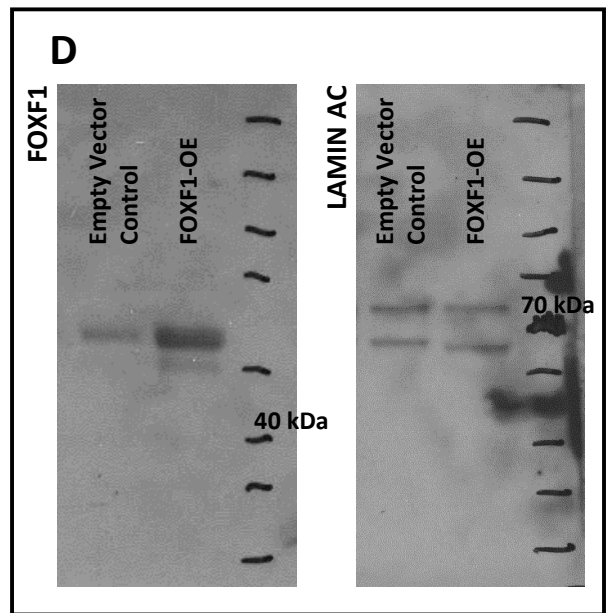
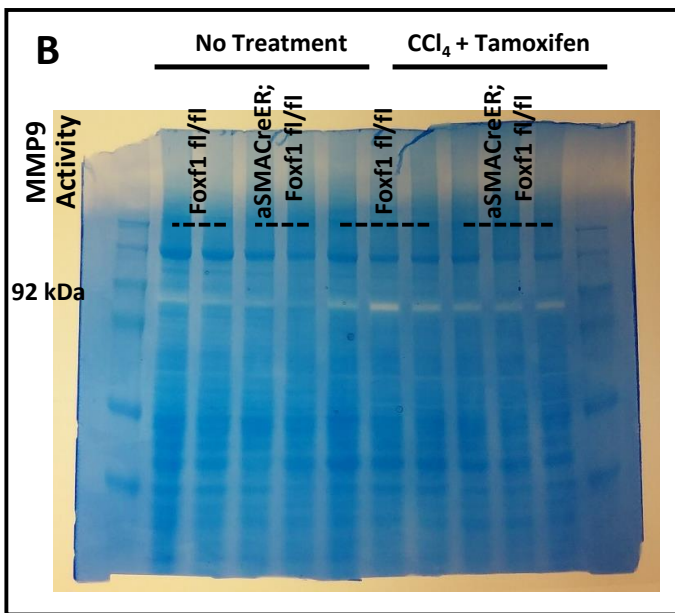
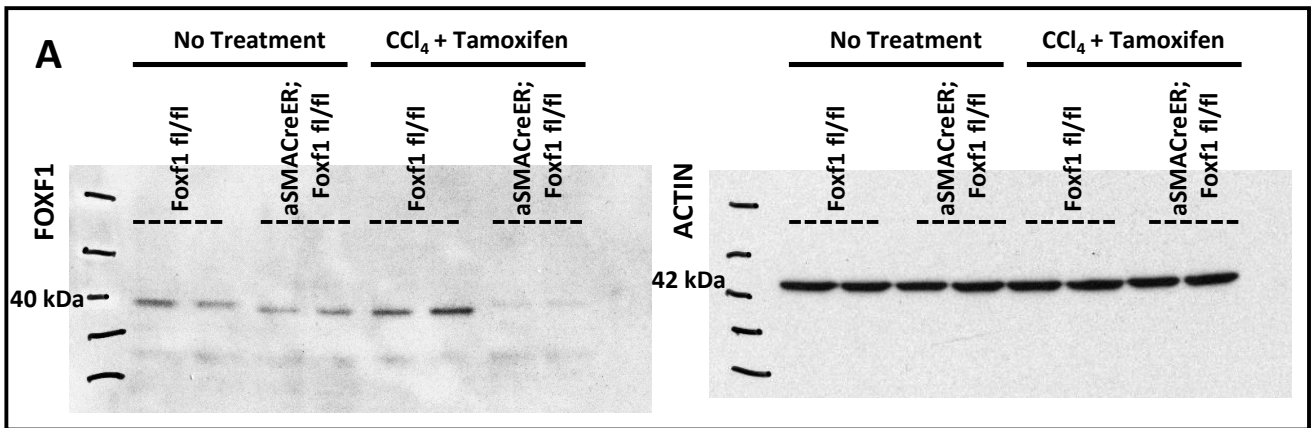


Figure S12. Full images for Western blot and zymography. (A) Full Western blots for FOXF1 (40 kDa) and corresponding ACTIN (42 kDa). Samples derive from the same experiment and blots were processed in parallel. Cropped blots are shown in Fig. 2C. (B) Full zymography gel used for analysis of MMP9 activity (92 kDa). Cropped gel shown in Fig. 3G. (C) Full Western blots for CCND1 (33 kDa), FOXM1 (84 kDa), and corresponding ACTIN (42 kDa). Samples derive from the same experiment and blots were processed in parallel. Cropped blots shown in Fig. 4G. (D) Full Western blots for FOXF1 and corresponding LAMIN AC (70 kDa). The FOXF1 bands are higher than the predicted 40 kDa due to the tags on the vector. Cropped blots shown in Fig. 6E.